

Ebola Medical Waste Management

This page is intended for county officials and healthcare professionals seeking information on the laws and regulations surrounding Category A infectious substance.

- Medical waste generated in the care of patients with known or suspected Ebola virus disease is subject to procedures set forth by local, state and federal regulations. Basic principles for spills of blood and other potentially infectious materials are outlined in the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030. See <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html>.
- Medical waste contaminated with Ebola virus is a Category A infectious substance regulated as a hazardous material under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR, Parts 171-180). The HMR apply to any material DOT determines is capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce¹. For off-site commercial transport of Ebola-associated medical waste, strict compliance with the HMR is required. For more information on the HMR requirements see <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/transporting-infectious-substances>.
 - If a person requires a variance to the HMR, that person must apply for a special permit under 49 CFR § 107.105. DOT may grant a special permit if the applicant can demonstrate that an alternative packaging will achieve a safety level that is (1) at least equal to the safety level required under the HMR, or (2) consistent with the public interest if a required safety level does not exist. See <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/permits-approvals/special-permits>.
 - The HMR contains federal requirements for transporting hazardous materials in commerce. For Ebola-associated medical waste transported by local, state or federal officials, contact DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). See <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/>.
 - Ebola-associated medical waste inactivated (e.g., autoclaved) or incinerated may be transported as regulated medical waste. Ebola-associated medical waste inactivated or incinerated is no longer considered a Category A infectious substance.
- The inactivation or incineration of Ebola-associated medical waste within a hospital system may be subject to state, local and OSHA regulations.
 - Onsite inactivation
 - Ebola-associated medical waste can be inactivated through the use of appropriate autoclaves. Other methods of inactivation (e.g., chemical inactivation) have not been standardized and would need to consider worker safety issues, as well as the potential for triggering other federal safety regulations.
 - Onsite incineration
 - Ebola-associated medical waste can be incinerated. The products of incineration can be transported and disposed of in accordance with standard protocols for hospital waste disposal.

- Ebola-associated waste disposal is subject to state and local regulations. Ebola-associated waste that has been appropriately inactivated or incinerated is no longer infectious. See <http://www.epa.gov/waste/nonhaz/industrial/medical/programs.htm>.

For more information, visit the [CDC Ebola Waste Management](#) site.

The [Nevada Division of Environmental Protection](#) regulates the disposal of medical waste. Further information regarding Nevada statutes and regulatory framework can be found here:

[Fact Sheet: Treatment Collection and Disposal of Infectious Medical Waste](#)

The Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) ([444.589](#), [444.646](#), [444.662](#)) medical waste regulations address:

The definition of medical waste; a procedural requirement is established for the disposal of medical waste; and minimum standards are established for the storage, labeling, segregating and transporting of medical waste.

The [Southern Nevada Health District](#) and [Washoe County District Health District](#) have further infectious waste regulations regarding the treatment of medical waste before disposal.